

The record of the Senate since July is a good one. In spite of unfair criticism and the wrongheaded delays and obstruction of Republicans, the Senate remains on track to meet and exceed the judicial confirmation totals for the first year of the first Bush administration and the first year of the Clinton administration.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President I am pleased that the Senate today will confirm two outstanding jurists, Claire V. Eagan and James H. Payne, to be U.S. District Court judges in my State of Oklahoma.

President Bush could not have chosen two finer individuals to serve our country as district court judges.

These individuals are exceptionally well-qualified and will prove to be great assets to the judicial system in Oklahoma and our country.

Judge Eagan has been confirmed to serve as district judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma. She is currently a U.S. magistrate judge for the northern district where she has served for 3 years. Prior to that she served as a litigation attorney with the firm of Hall, Estill for 20 years. During that time, she handled a wide array of litigation as well as significant pro bono work and bar activities.

As a magistrate, she has gained judicial experience in criminal, civil, habeas, and bankruptcy matters. She also supervised the court's settlement program and devoted considerable time to early case resolution.

Judge Eagan is recognized as both a leader and instructor in the fields of trial and appellate practice and alternative dispute resolution. She has served on the faculty at the University of Tulsa College of Law and as an adjunct settlement judge for Tulsa County District Court.

Judge Payne has been confirmed to serve as district judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. He is currently a U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma where he has served for 13 years. Prior to that he served as a private practice attorney with the firm of Sandlin and Payne for 15 years, handling civil matters. He also served 3 years as an assistant U.S. attorney for the eastern district. He has maintained an active role in the community by providing pro bono services to several local charitable organizations.

As a magistrate, he has gained experience in a broad range of criminal and civil issues. He has implemented an Alternative Dispute Resolution Program for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, which has allowed him to conduct an average of 100 settlement conferences per year.

Following graduation from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, Judge Payne's 30-year legal career has included military service as an Air Force Judge Advocate General officer.

I thank Chairman LEAHY, Ranking Member HATCH, and the Judiciary Committee for their work on these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James H. Payne, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Oklahoma? The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 307 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Akaka	Durbin	McCain
Allard	Edwards	McConnell
Allen	Ensign	Mikulski
Baucus	Enzi	Miller
Bayh	Feingold	Murkowski
Bennett	Feinstein	Murray
Biden	Fitzgerald	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Graham	Nickles
Boxer	Gramm	Reed
Breaux	Grassley	Reid
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burns	Harkin	Santorum
Byrd	Hatch	Sarbanes
Campbell	Helms	Schumer
Cantwell	Hollings	Sessions
Carnahan	Hutchinson	Shelby
Carper	Hutchinson	Smith (NH)
Chafee	Inhofe	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Inouye	Snowe
Clinton	Jeffords	Specter
Cochran	Johnson	Stabenow
Collins	Kennedy	Stevens
Conrad	Kerry	Thomas
Corzine	Kohl	Thompson
Craig	Kyl	Thurmond
Crapo	Landrieu	Torricelli
Daschle	Leahy	Voinovich
Dayton	Levin	Warner
DeWine	Lieberman	Wellstone
Dodd	Lincoln	Wyden
Domenici	Lott	
Dorgan	Lugar	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to make an announcement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there were a number of hearings scheduled for today and tomorrow in the Judiciary Committee, hearings to be chaired by Senators SCHUMER, BIDEN, and FEINSTEIN, which have been postponed. The reason we have done this is because of all the conditions of rooms and all, so we can save the time for the nominations hearing which has been scheduled for Thursday afternoon to be chaired by Senator EDWARDS, provided we can find the room for it. That will go on. The others are routine hearings which can be done at any time.

NOMINATION OF KAREN K. CALDWELL, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the nomination of Karen K. Caldwell, of Kentucky, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karen K. Caldwell of Kentucky, to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of Karen Caldwell to be a Federal District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Karen has the qualities that will make her a fine judge—knowledge of the law, calm and respected demeanor, and obvious intelligence.

She has had an outstanding professional career that has prepared her well to sit on the bench. She is a former Assistant U.S. attorney for the district, rising to become Deputy Chief of the Civil Division. From 1991 to 1993, she served as the U.S. attorney for the eastern district. Among the notable prosecutions during her tenure was her office's prosecution as part of Operation Boptrout, the Federal sting operation that led to the conviction of a number of public officials and lobbyists in Kentucky.

It was a difficult and complex case, both legally and politically, and she handled it with great skill. In short, Karen's work helped restore public confidence in elected officials in our Commonwealth.

Since leaving the U.S. attorney's post, Karen has specialized in complex civil and criminal litigation at one of Kentucky's leading firms. She has won numerous awards for the quality of her work, and has truly made a mark in Kentucky. It is only natural now that she rise to the bench.

I urge the Senate to support this nomination. The President made a great choice by selecting her for the bench, and she is going to be a fine judge, not just for the people of the eastern district, but for our entire Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Karen K. Caldwell, of Kentucky, to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky?

On this question the yeas and nays have been ordered. Under the previous order this will be a 10-minute vote.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 308 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Akaka	Campbell	DeWine
Allard	Cantwell	Dodd
Allen	Carnahan	Domenici
Baucus	Carper	Dorgan
Bayh	Chafee	Durbin
Bennett	Cleland	Edwards
Biden	Clinton	Ensign
Bingaman	Cochran	Enzi
Bond	Collins	Feingold
Boxer	Conrad	Feinstein
Breaux	Corzine	Fitzgerald
Brownback	Craig	Frist
Bunning	Crapo	Graham
Burns	Daschle	Gramm
Byrd	Dayton	Grassley